



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Proposed FY'13 Restructuring of Services for Children with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Is this restructuring being done to save money?

No, there is no budget savings associated with the proposed transition. The focus of this reconfiguration is not fiscal; It is intended to create a single state agency to serve all children and families– and to provide enhanced access to integrated services along a continuum of care.

How will this transition impact children currently served by DDD?

Staff from both departments is conducting a child-by-child analysis to determine which children currently served by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) can be transitioned to the Department of Children & Families in July 2012 or January 2013, and which will remain with DDD for a longer period of time. Many older children (over 18) who are currently being served by DDD may not be transitioned to DCF at all, as they would be transitioned back to DDD for adult services when they reach age 21.

How will this transition impact children with intellectual/developmental disabilities as new entries in the system?

All new children entering the system after January 1, 2013 will be served by DCF. Children entering the system before July 1, 2012 will go through intake at DDD and be transitioned to DCF between July 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013, depending on what services they need. Once the necessary regulatory changes have been made, children entering the system between July 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013 will go through intake at DDD and will receive services from either DDD or DCF, depending on their level of need, until January 1, 2013, at which time they will receive all services from DCF.

How will this transition impact a child's status on DDD's Community Care Waiting List?

DDD currently maintains a Waiting List for the Community Care Waiver (CCW), which provides funding for long-term community-based services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. Some children under the age of 16 already have been added to the CCW Waiting List since historically, the wait for services has been long. Children who were on the CCW Waiting List prior to July 1, 2012 will not be removed from the Waiting List as a result of this reconfiguration. They will be served by DDD as they age into the adult system and their need for services will be regularly evaluated, including when they reach the top of the Waiting List. New children will not be added to the CCW Waiting List because their services will be provided by DCF. When the child turns 16, s/he will be informed about the CCW Waiting List when they apply for DDD eligibility, and at that time, they will have the opportunity to go on the Waiting List if they meet the CCW criteria. DDD is currently working on regulatory amendments to support this change.

What will the role of the Division of Disability Services (DDS) be with regard to serving children with developmental disabilities and their families?

DDS' role as a resource for individuals with any type of disability and their families through its Information and Referral hotline – 1-888-285-3036 – remains unchanged. In recent years, requests for family support services have also been filtered through DDS, in partnership with DDD. As the family support system for children is transitioned to DCF, this partnership between DDD and DDS will no longer be necessary.

What does this mean for children with developmental disabilities between ages 16 – 21?

At age 16, DDD will assess a child for eligibility and provide transitional planning services. All direct services (residential, in-home behavioral, family support, etc.) will continue to be provided by DCF until age 21. Thus, a child will be dually served by both systems between the ages of 16-21, ensuring the opportunity for meaningful and coordinated transition planning so that children and their families can make a seamless transition into adult services. All services after age 21 will be provided by DDD.

Will this restructuring have any impact on the Early Intervention program for children with developmental delays from birth – age 3?

No, the Early Intervention Program, administered by the Department of Health, and funded via Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) will not be affected by this restructuring.

Will there be an opportunity for stakeholder input?

DHS and DCF are committed to ensuring that this transition is smooth and that children and families continue to receive needed supports during and after the transition. This cannot occur successfully without active input from people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the provider community. To that end, there will be multiple opportunities for input and dialogue.